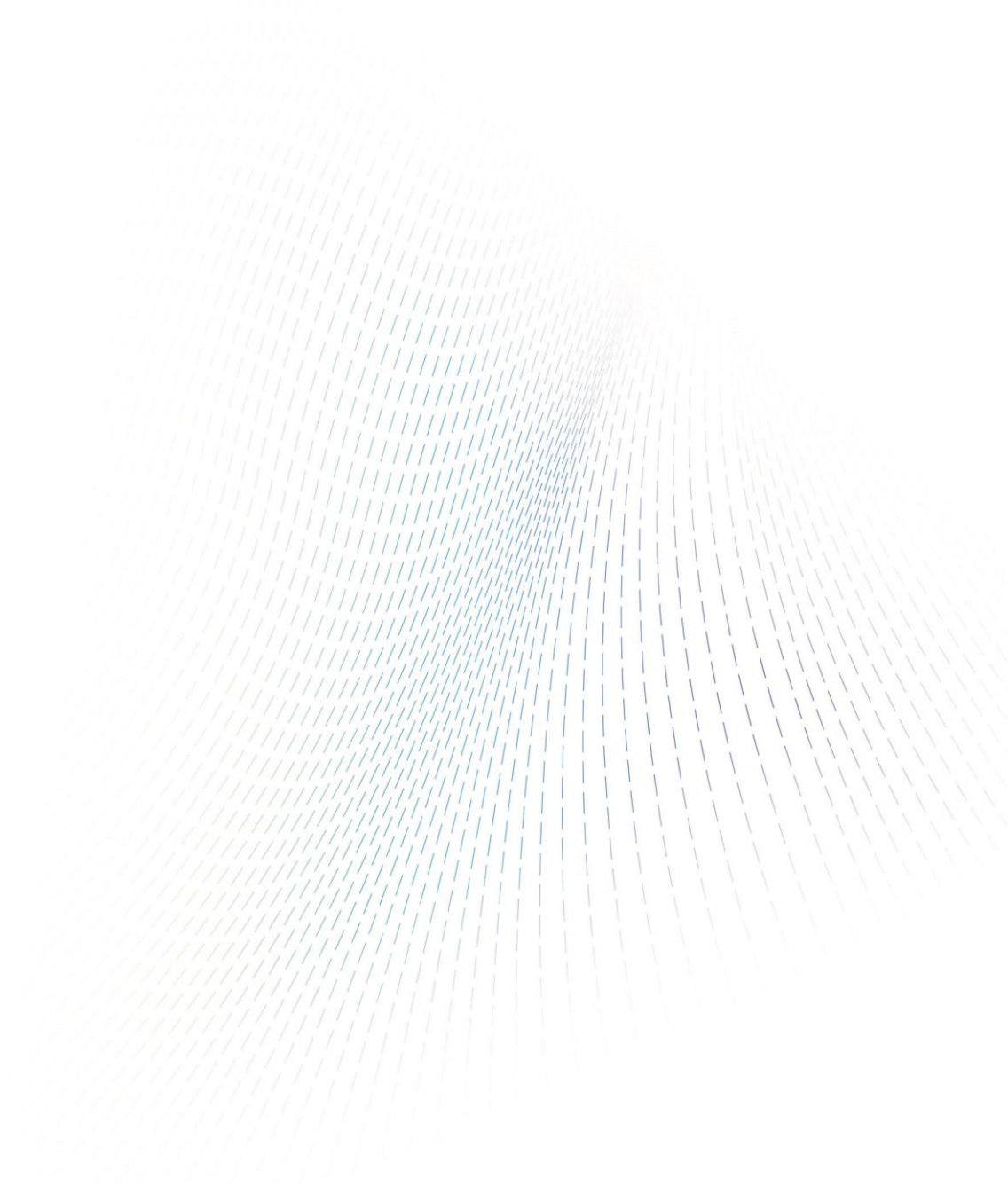




الهيئة العامة للإحصاء
General Authority for Statistics

Average Prices of Goods and Services





Contents

No.	Subject	No. Page
1	Introduction	3
2	Methodology of Average Prices of Goods and Services	4
3	Movements of average prices of goods and services (Tables)	11



Introduction:

As part of its efforts to draw a clear picture of what is going on in the Kingdom's markets, the General Authority for Statistics has constructed several indicators through which the movements of prices of goods and services and the changes that may occur from time to time in the retail market (Consumer Price Index) as well as wholesale prices (Wholesale Price Index) according to a methodology specific to each.

Since the prices collected for the goods and services included in the creation of the Indices of consumer price index and wholesale prices are carried out according to the regulations of their own methodology, including the way in which the basket of goods and services as well as commodity specifications are determined, the need to work to follow the movement of prices of goods and services in the markets according to A different statistical approach and methodology that is flexible and inclusive in the name of "average prices in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia" in response to the need of a large number of beneficiaries who want to obtain prices of some goods directly without using these prices to calculate other indicators except change ratios from period to period.

General Authority for Statistics

Price statistics Division

P.O. 3735 Riyadh 11481

<http://www.stats.gov.sa>

E-mail: Info@stats.gov.sa



First: Definitionally Data

Definition:

Average prices are defined as a statistical metric of the changes in any term prices with classifications of fixed and specific period.

Description:

An indicator that measures the movements of the prices of goods and services in the markets according to a statistical methodology that follows special regulations and restrictions that are comprehensive, flexible and quality by calculating average prices, monthly, quarterly and annual changes at the city level and at the Kingdom's level. As well as the most significant monthly relative changes.

Related Terms and Definitions:

Goods and Services:

Most consumed goods and services by household consumer for living purposes.

Point of Sale:

Establishments or units from which the price data of goods and services included in the basket of goods are collected, such as retail stores such as grocery stores and clothing stores, as well as various consumer services such as physicians, tailoring, car maintenance, apartments and hotels, Head) and other service shops.

Average Prices:

The sum of the product's total price divided by the number of pricing.

Constructional Goods:

Main goods that are related to the construction of housing and government contracts (Iron, Cables, etc.).

Continuity:

To guarantee the continuity of practicing the activity for a long period of time.

Frequency:

Purchasing movement in the sale point.

Rate Change:

The rate of change between an existing period and a previous period.



Objectives:

The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's average price program aims at the publication of the prices of retail goods and services and their changes from time to time, concerning a list of goods and services of interest to the consumer, where their specifications are determined accurately to calculate their average prices within every sole city and at the level of the Kingdom as a whole.

Periodic Publication:

The results of average prices of goods and services are published monthly.

Data Source:

Data are collected from retail sources, factories, suppliers and service delivery stores.

Coverage:

Spatial Coverage

The survey of price averages covers all 13 regions of the Kingdom, where price data are collected from sixteen major cities representing thirteen cities, including the administrative regions (Riyadh, Makkah, Madinah, Buraydah, Dammam, Abha, Tabuk, Hail, Arar, Jazan, Najran, Baha, and Sakaka) as well as three other cities (Jeddah, Taif, Hofuf).

Time Coverage:

Most goods and services basket items are collected monthly according to a specific pricing plan.

Used Classification Methodology:

The classification was revised starting from June 2019 to COICOP with adjusting the names of the sections in accordance with the selected items within the section as follows:

Group	No. Items
FOOD AND NON-ALCOHOLIC	91
TOBACCO	1
CLOTHING	10
CONSTRUCTIONAL GOODS	38
DETERGENTS	4
HEALTH	3
MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR OF PERSONAL TRANSPORT	2
FODDER AND LIVESTOCK	12
HOTELS AND FURNISHED APARTMENTS	2
MISCELLANEOUS GOODS AND SERVICES	4
Total	167

Goods and Services Basket:

The basket of goods and services was selected based on the relative importance of the consumer and the requests of the beneficiaries, after reviewing the availability of those items with fixed specifications in all the research areas.



Main Results and Indicators:

- 1) Average prices and monthly, quarterly and annual changes for all cities.
- 2) Average monthly prices of cities.
- 3) Quarterly, semi-annual and annual average prices for all cities.
- 4) Monthly price averages for all cities.
- 5) Highlights of monthly relative changes.
- 6) Average prices of some construction materials for all cities during the year.

Beneficiaries:

1. Departments that are concerned with statistical analysis and reports in the Authority.
2. Regional and international organizations.
3. Academic researchers and investors.
4. Number of other beneficiaries (internal and external).

Benefits:

Data of the average prices of goods and services are a statistical means of:

1. Supports the implementation of some appropriate economic decisions by the official authorities through monitoring the movements of average prices of goods and services and its components.
2. Supporting researchers and investors by knowing the average prices of goods and services in the Kingdom.
3. Measuring changes in prices of goods and services that the consumer buys from time to time.
4. It can be relied upon in the economic and statistical analyzes of price movements and future forecasts during different periods of time.
5. Data on average goods and services prices help estimate contractors' compensation in government contracts.

Second: Survey Methodology

Research Requirements:

To determine their requirements and needs, the survey should be conducted in consultation with the clients benefiting from the results of average prices of goods and services. This communication continues to ensure that the needs of the beneficiaries are met during the development processes of the survey.



Designing the Survey Form:

In the first beginnings of creating the survey in (2009), a paper form was designed to collect data from points of sale. The design was formed to refer to geographical indications to reach points of sale such as: (shop number, shop name, city, neighborhood, alley number, sector number, block number, street, location, and coordinates).

The form also includes a description of the item or service to be monitored for its price, specifications and changes, such as: (item code, item name, specifications, unit, price, analysis code and field notes).

In the year 2016, the form was applied electronically to the collection of data through electronic devices. The electronic form included additional data added to the original data included in the paper form, such as: (activation of the coordination feature, increasing the quality and reliability of prices, data is collected through tablets technology).

The Frame:

The general framework of the establishments census was based on the selection of the sample based on the consumer price index sample, in addition to the construction goods.

The Sample:

The basket of goods and services was selected based on their importance to the family, the construction goods were selected as the main goods in the construction of the house for the family and government contracts. While the points of sale from which prices of different goods and services were collected were based on:

1. Use the framework of the enumeration of enterprises.
2. Several factors are available at the selected point of sale such as (permanence, frequency).
3. Consider the spread of points of sale at the city level in all directions.
4. Considering the diversity of point of sale (hypermarket, supermarket, catering, specialized shop, shop).

Sampling Unit:

The sampling units in the survey of price averages are:

1. Consumer goods obtained by the individual from points of sale at the retail price or factories and suppliers.
2. The service received by the individual from points of service delivery at retail price.

Collecting Data:

The method of data collection was determined according to several controls and criteria as follows:

1. Commitment to the approved pricing method with the specifications guide for each item in the survey.
2. Adopt the method of collecting price data from point of sale personally by interviewing.



3. Data collection using tablets instead of writings for more efficiency.
4. Approve the price of the day of visit to the point of sale according to the approved pricing plan for the item.
5. Commitment to the standard specified for each item.

Data Collection Tools:

Researchers in the field collect data from tablet devices equipped with technical support programs.

Upload and Archive Data and Metadata Collected on Databases:

In the field, the researcher performs the direct input of the data collected using the handheld devices in all the research cities.

- Tablets are linked to a central database where processing is automated.
- Using researchers for the synchronization feature available on tablets, data collected directly on the databases are loaded.

Auditing Data and Assuring Its Quality:

Auditing data and assuring its quality can be done by:

1. Making sure of prices and data comprehension and logicity.
2. Revising all prices and editing them if needed (all over the city and all-over Saudi Arabia)
3. Checking the revision reports and editing them if needed.
4. Using technology to revise the other elements of data quality (autocorrecting rules, coordinates...etc.) so that the pricing plan can be implemented quickly.
5. Constant follow up by the program supervisor and the regions supervisors.
6. Applying a re-visiting form by (the supervisor or quality observer). The form would ask for another visit to the sale point, from which data are collected, just to make sure that all data are correct and accurate.
7. Comparing the randomly chosen commodity prices.
8. Applying commodity Concealment processors and resources change.

Follow-up with Data Collectors:

Data collection is subject to automatic follow-up by connecting and synchronizing the supervisor's desktop software with the tablets used by the researcher to alert them to the presence of observations or errors about the data entered into the system. The team of specialists in the central administration and branches and offices of the Authority have frequent periodic visits to each city of research according to a specific time schedule, and the quality sample is automatically withdrawn at the level of the city and researcher and alerting researchers to the existence of any observations or errors about the data entered into the system.



Follow-up of Data Providers:

Survey supervisors in various regions of the Kingdom periodically conduct several visits and communications to several data providers to verify the validity of the data collected and the way the interviewer interviewed the data provider.

Equations used and calculation process:

The average price of goods and services is calculated on an arithmetic basis.

The rate of change in prices of goods and services is calculated as follows:

Change rate = (average of current period - average of previous period) / average of previous period × 100.

Downloading the Output of Databases:

All data outputs resulting from the calculations are loaded and saved to editable databases.

Review and Process Outputs:

The Department reviews and processes the data through an automated audit system and correction rules developed to detect errors and irregular numbers.

Data Confidentiality:

Commitment to data confidentiality and use them for statistical purposes of the General Authority for Statistics only.

Publishing:

Data are published according to the following methodology:

1. Publishing the commodity and services average price results monthly.
2. Publishing them on specified and announced dates on the authority official website.
3. The authority official website www.stats.gov.sa is a certified and official publishing platform.
4. Providing all kinds of beneficiaries with the results using the appropriate mechanism.

Evaluation and Data Quality:

To ensure the highest accuracy in the data, it is necessary to follow the progress of work in all stages of the office and field and to ensure the complete collection of data according to the specific specifications and periodicity of each of the items included in the program. The main lines for the application of quality are as follows:

- Preparation of various software to examine the data and ensure accuracy, and development continuously.
- Use tablet pricing devices and set up special programs linked to POS sites to ensure that the researcher arrives at the desired site and adheres to the pricing timing as well.



- A team of specialists in the central administration and branches and offices of the Authority to conduct frequent periodic visits to each city of research according to a specific time schedule so that the quality sample is drawn automatically and deliberately at the level of the city and researcher.
- Evaluate work periodically.
- Monitoring and studying the remarks and suggestions received from the beneficiaries of the results to improve the quality of the data in the future.